loyed to escort block-loads of coal wagons in crime prone areas|sections.

(2) Vulnerable yards and affected places which are prone for thefts of coal are also patrolled by armed RPF men as well as by dog squads with a view to tracking down the criminals indulging in theft of coal.

(3) Fixed pickets are posted|deployed in vulnerable section|black spots to prevent theft of coal from running trains.

(4) Crime Intelligence staff of the Railways and Central Crime Bureau of Railway Board are deployed to collect crime intelligence about the activities of coal thieves and receivers and conduct raids on them for the recovery of stolen coal and arrest of criminals|receivers.

Superior quality coal for ceramic industries

@@@@1050-D. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any representation from the Gujarat Government for the supply of superior quality of coal for ceramic industries; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Several representations have been received for supply of adequate quantities of superior quality coal to ceramic industries of Gujarat from various organisations.

(b) Steps are being taken by the Government to increase production and despatch of coal with a view to improve its availability to all consumers, including ceramic industries. Ceramic industry generally insists on supply of coal from a few underground mines where production has not kept pace with increase in demand. If the industry were to accept coal from other sources also, its level of satisfaction will be much higher.

Steam coal for industries in Gujarat

@@@@@1050-E. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gujarat does not get adequate quantity of steam coal as per requirement for its industries; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to prevent the closure of industries due to shortage of steam coal and to stop unemployment arising out of closure of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) There has been some shortfall in supply of steam coal to industries in Gujarat because more coal had to be moved by Railways to high priority core sector consumers like power, cement, steel, railway, fertilizer etc.

In order to meet the demand of non-core sector industrial consumers, the Ministry of Coal have issued instructions to Coal India Limited that the requirement of these consumers must be met at least to the extent of 50 per cent of linkage by rail or by road. This will improve the supply of coal to these consumers considerably.

12.00 Noon

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair].

@@@@Previously Unstarred Question No. 1550 transferred from 15th September, 1991.

@@@@@Previously Unstarred Question No. 1551 transferred from 12th September, 1991.